

# **Minutes of the East Greenwich School Committee**

**Tuesday, December 2, 2014**

**Archie R. Cole Middle School Library**

**100 Cedar Avenue**

**East Greenwich, RI 02818**

**Those in attendance were Ms. Carolyn Mark, Chair; Dr. Deidre Gifford, Vice-Chair; Mrs. Mary Ellen Winters; Mr. Clark Smith; Mr. David Osborne, and Mr. Michael Fain. Dr. Yan Sun was absent. Dr. Victor Mercurio, Superintendent; Mrs. Gail Wilcox, Director of Administration; and Mr. Brad Wilson, Director of Student Services were also in attendance.**

## **7:00 p.m. Regular Meeting**

### **I. Call to Order**

**Dr. Gifford called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.**

### **II. Election of School Committee Chair and Vice-Chair**

**Dr. Gifford conducted the organizational meeting to elect a new Chair and Vice-Chair.**

**Ms. Mark nominated Dr. Gifford for Vice-Chair. Mr. Fain seconded the motion, which passed 6-0. Mrs. Winters nominated Ms. Mark for Chair. Dr. Gifford seconded the motion, which passed 6-0. Ms. Mark thanked all and welcomed the new members. Ms. Mark noted new**

member, Dr. Sun, is absent due to a prior work commitment.

### **III. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag**

The meeting commenced with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

### **IV. Recognitions**

a. Cheryl Simmons, OT, Cole/EGHS, Elizabeth M. Dalton Assistive Technology Award

b. Peri Sheinin-EGHS- Girls' Tennis Singles State Champion

c. EGHS Girls' Varsity Volleyball team and Coaches Garno and Glover

d. EGHS Girls' Cross Country team and Coach Newman

e. EGHS Boys' Cross Country team and Coach Dion

The Committee recognized and congratulated all for their outstanding achievement.

### **V. Public Comments**

Mrs. Bambi Lukens, 131 Westwood Drive, asked when 1:1 technology would be implemented for Cole and if funding could be included in next year's budget. On behalf of the SELAC Committee, Cheri Cruz, 470 Carrs Pond Road, welcomed the new School Committee members and existing members.

### **VI. Approval of Minutes**

a. Regular and Executive Minutes for November 18, 2014

On a motion by Mrs. Winters, which was seconded by Dr. Gifford, the Committee voted 4-0 to approve the regular and executive minutes. Mr. Osborne and Mr. Fain abstained.

### **VII. Superintendent's Report**

Dr. Mercurio welcomed new School Committee members Mr.

**Osborne and Mr. Fain. On December 13th, a team from East Greenwich will travel to Boston to take part in a conference regarding an international baccalaureate program. The winter sports season has officially begun. Fall sports will officially end this weekend with the EGHS football team participating in the Division III Super Bowl. A joint meeting needs to be scheduled with the town and school department to discuss revenue and expenditure projections for FY2016. The Alert Now system has been updated and refreshed by the new Technology Director. If messages are not being received, community members are urged to contact the Superintendent's Office.**

#### **VIII. School Committee Concerns**

**There were no concerns.**

#### **IX. Action Items**

##### **a. Field Trip-Cole-Close-Up Washington, D.C.-5/24/15-5/27/15**

**On a motion by Mrs. Winters, which was seconded by Mr. Osborne, the Committee voted 6-0 to approve the field trip.**

##### **b. Field Trip-Cole-Sunday River Ski Trip-1/16/15-1/18/15**

**On a motion by Mrs. Winters, which was seconded by Mr. Fain, the Committee voted 6-0 to approve the trip.**

##### **c. Approval of Program of Studies (POS) EGHS 2015-16 with revisions/new course offerings**

**Mr. Podraza and EGHS department chairs were present to discuss revisions and new course offerings. Mr. Podraza summarized the changes and answered questions posed by the Committee and the audience. There was a lengthy discussion regarding credit/ GPA for**

on line courses and AP course offerings. Mr. Podraza will examine any overlap in AP Physics and rename the course if needed. Dr. Mercurio thanked Mr. Podraza and the department chairs for their input in developing the Program of Studies. Dr. Gifford made a motion to approve the Program of Studies 2015-2016 with revisions/new course offerings. Mrs. Winters seconded the motion. Mr. Fain asked to table the motion to give the Committee a few more weeks to review the POS. Mr. Fain withdrew his motion. Mr. Osborne then made a motion to table the discussion. Ms. Mark seconded and the vote failed 3-3 with Mr. Osborne, Ms. Mark, and Mr. Fain voting to table the vote. Mr. Fain then made a motion to table the item until the next meeting. Mr. Osborne seconded the motion. The Committee was split 3-3 with Mr. Osborne, Mr. Fain, and Ms. Mark voting for the motion. Dr. Mercurio asked for clarification on information in the POS that needs further detail. Mr. Fain and Ms. Mark stated that no additional information is needed, just additional time for review. After discussion, Dr. Gifford made a motion to approve the POS as presented, but noted it will be on the next agenda for further discussion and potential amendment based on input from new School Committee members. Mr. Fain seconded the motion, which passed 6-0.

## **X. Discussion**

### **a. School Committee Subcommittee Membership**

The Committee reviewed the openings in each committee and selected committees of interest. Committee chairs will be determined at each group's next meeting.

## **b. School Committee Meeting Dates for 2015**

The tentative date to meet with the Town Council for the joint revenue/expenditure meeting is Monday, December 15, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. School Committee meeting dates for 2015 will be reviewed after this meeting.

## **XI. Updates**

### **a. Ad Hoc Committees**

#### **1. Study Start Times**

Last night a forum took place with about 40-50 community members. The Ad Hoc Committee facilitated the meeting with input from Dr. Katie Sharkey and Dr. Jose Libano, Principal of Sharon High School. Dr. Mercurio would like to visit Dr. Libano's school to speak with students about the time change. School Committee members will be invited to attend.

#### **2. Academic Calendar**

The academic calendar committee met last night to review information gathered from numerous schools throughout the country. Many schools in Rhode Island are looking at eliminating the February break, discussing possible changes to the religious holidays, and discussing whether to start school before or after Labor Day. A subsequent meeting will be scheduled. The committee is planning to present their findings sometime during second semester.

#### **3. All Day Kindergarten**

The second forum to discuss all day kindergarten will take place on December 8, 2014 at 6:00 pm. in the Cole library. An ad hoc meeting

**will take place tomorrow to compile information required by the Charge. Public feedback**

**will be incorporated into the report provided to the School Committee. Survey results will be provided to the public.**

## **XII. Subcommittee Updates**

### **a. Health and Wellness (Mental Health)**

**Ms. Mark summarized the work that has been taking place during the mental health meetings. Work groups have been established for four major areas. The Committee is working with principals' to identify staff to participate in the Mental Health First Aid training.**

## **XIII. Adjournment**

**On a motion by Mr. Fain, which was seconded by Mrs. Winters, the Committee voted 6-0 to adjourn at 8:45 pm.**

**CHRISTINE DIMEGLIO**

**SECRETARY**